09/27/23 • COVID › VIEWS

What Are They Hiding? Government COVID Vaccine Contracts Shrouded in Secrecy

Major international governments signed multibillion-dollar legal contracts with drug companies in order to secure access to COVID-19 vaccines. But the drug companies and governments have refused to divulge details, saying the information is "commercial in confidence."

By Maryanne Demasi, Ph.D.

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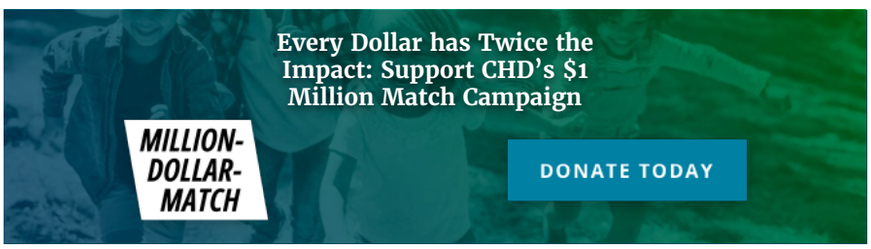
Major international governments have signed multibillion-dollar legal contracts with drug companies in order to secure access to COVID-19 vaccines.

But the drug companies and governments have refused to divulge details, saying the information is "commercial in confidence."

In 2021, we got our first peek at contracts between Pfizer and various international countries after they were leaked to The Bureau of Investigative Journalism and the U.S. consumer group Public Citizen.

"The contracts offer a rare glimpse into the power one pharmaceutical corporation has gained to silence governments, throttle supply, shift risk and maximize profits in the worst public health crisis in a century," said Zain Rizvi, author of the Public Citizen report.

Pfizer was accused of "bullying" governments during contract negotiations, asking some Latin American countries to put up sovereign assets, such as embassy buildings and military bases, as a guarantee against the cost of any future legal cases.



High court decision

Last month, a South African non-governmental organization called Health

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Justice Initiative, won a high court challenge to gain access to all of South Africa's COVID-19 vaccine contracts.

Tony Nikolic, an Australian solicitor from law firm Ashley, Francina, Leonard & Associates, reviewed the Pfizer contract and says it reads like South Africa was "held to ransom" over the deal.

"It's a one-sided contract. Pfizer gets all of the profits and none of the risks," says Nikolic. "It's akin to extortion, there's absolutely no liability for the vaccine manufacturer in terms of injuries that may arise from their product."

The South African government agreed to "indemnify, defend and hold harmless" Pfizer and all its affiliates from "any and all suits, claims, actions, demands, losses, damages, liabilities settlements, penalties, fines, costs and expenses" arising from the vaccine.

It also says the government will "create, dedicate, and maintain a no-fault compensation fund sufficient to undertake and completely fulfill the indemnification obligations … for damage, injury, or harm arising out of, relating to, or resulting from the development, administration, or use of the vaccine."

Nikolic says:

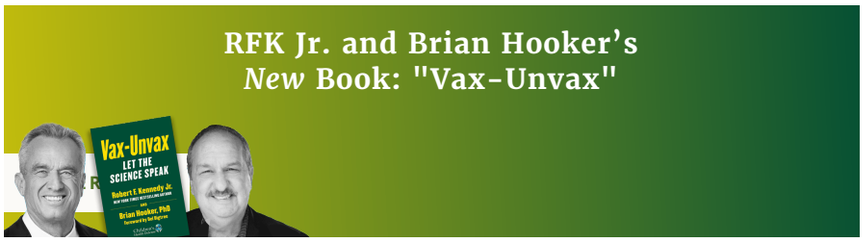
> "It's like the manufacturers could ask for anything they wanted. There was such panic at the time and images in the media of people dying in the streets created a real sense of fear and insecurity around the world."

The protection against liability is not only in place for the initial vaccine formulation, but for "any or all related strains, mutations, modifications or derivatives of the foregoing that are procured by Purchaser."

"What this means," explains Nikolic, "is that Pfizer can modify its vaccine to match whatever variants emerge, and still have all the same protections against liability. This is nothing more than a cash cow for Pfizer, they are privatizing the profits, whilst socializing the costs."

Pfizer charged the South African government $10 per dose, which is nearly 33% more than the $6.75 "cost price" it reportedly charged the African Union.

"In my view, this is why Pfizer wants the details kept secret, so that it can protect the various price differences between countries. It's classic price gouging with a predatory twist, that is why procurement transparency is essential," says Nikolic.



Long-term safety?

The contract states "the long-term effects and efficacy of the vaccine are not currently known and that there may be adverse effects of the Vaccine that are not currently known."

Nikolic says this is in stark contrast to the public health messages at the time.

"We had politicians and key opinion leaders telling people that the vaccines were 'safe and effective' when the procurement contracts themselves did not make such claims," says Nikolic.

"The contract clearly indicates that adverse effects were unknown at the time of signing. The burden of proof should never have been on the people to prove the vaccine was unsafe, it should have been on the manufacturer to prove the vaccine was safe," he adds.

Nikolic has spent the last two years trying to access the procurement contracts signed by the Australian Government.

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"Australians are still in the dark about what is contained within these contracts. We know it gave liability protection to the vaccine manufacturers like other countries, but that's the extent of it," says Nikolic.

"We need to know what our politicians knew at the time of signing the deal. And we need to know how much money we, the taxpayer, spent for a vaccine that turned out to be far less safe or effective than promised,' he adds.

In a recent Australian Senate committee hearing, Queensland Senator Malcolm Roberts grilled Pfizer executives under oath about the indemnity clauses in its contract with the Australian government, but Pfizer refused to give details.

"The contents of Pfizer's contract with the Australian Government remains confidential," said Pfizer Australia's medical director Krishan Thiru.

In 2021, Nikolic mounted a legal challenge against COVID-19 vaccine mandates in the Supreme Court of New South Wales where he tried to subpoena the Pfizer contract, but his request was blocked.

Undeterred, Nikolic submitted a freedom of information request to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

The freedom of information request, however, was denied because the contracts "contain information that is confidential in nature" such as "trade secrets and commercially valuable information."

It stated:

> "The documents contain commercial information regarding the procurement of vaccines to Australia.
>
> "The documents contain information specifically relevant to the unique commercial arrangements between the department and third parties, including indicative prices, payment terms, professional indemnity, ongoing funding measures, manufacturing details and production measures."

Nikolic says:

> "It's unethical, potentially unlawful and immoral for them to argue that the right to preserve commercial confidence overrides the right for public safety, it just doesn't make sense."

He adds, "It just boggles the mind how governments just rolled over and entered into agreements with companies like Pfizer that have a long track record of breaching the False Claims Act resulting in billion-dollar criminal and civil liability."

Originally published on Maryanne Demasi's Substack page.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Children's Health Defense.

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Maryanne Demasi, Ph.D.

Maryanne Demasi, Ph.D. is an investigative medical reporter, speaker and TV presenter/producer.

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Voyt Regnal
13 hours ago

This is called embezzlement of public money, or sucking taxpayers money for useless, toxic, often deadly product. Pharma will get money, people will refuse to take garbage in the arm again, most of it will end up at the landfills. Nice SCAM 😤

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Clare Goldsberry
17 hours ago

Why would any government enter into a contract with Big Harma for a drug that has been shown not to prevent transmission of a virus or hospitalization or death (maybe not death from Covid-19 but death from any one or more of the Adverse Events listed in Pfizer's Post-marketing report -- all 8 pages of some 1,200 of these of "special interest.") Tell them to go pound sand! Unless of course these countries want a depopulation plan that is effective.

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GarySummers
19 hours ago

BREAKING "Sharing Is Caring" 'CIA At Event #201, 2019'

"House Select Subcommittee: 'Fauci Colluded With CIA' To Rig COVID Investigation"

Dr. Anthony Fauci was "smuggled into CIA headquarters", "without a record of entry," where he "participated in the analysis to "influence" the Agency's" Covid-19 investigation, according to the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus P[L]andemic.
https://whiskeytangotexas.c...

"Scott Gottlieb's Role in Creating a New Intelligence Office"
'FDA commissioner, Investment fund manager, Pfizer Board of Directors member, CIA advisor and Corporate Media Shill.'
https://rwmalonemd.substack...

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Rob DF
17 hours ago

""We had politicians and key opinion leaders telling people that the vaccines were 'safe and effective' when the procurement contracts themselves did not make such claims," says Nikolic". Actually... if you bothered to read the "VACCINE INFORMATION FACT SHEET FOR RECIPIENTS AND CAREGIVERS..." which was/is readily available on the FDA website it has always stated that "the long-term effects and efficacy of the vaccine are not currently known...". This has never been hidden, all you had to do was read the the fact sheet.

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notaluvvie → Rob DF
9 hours ago

And all you had to do was read what the author wrote, ie ""We had politicians and key opinion leaders telling people that the vaccines were 'safe and effective' when the procurement contracts themselves did not make such claims.

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Matt
43 minutes ago

I believe enough evidence of fraud including whistleblower testimony from the drug trials exists to vitiate immunity agreements. I believe crimes have been committed by the U.S. Government, Health regulatory agencies and the COVID vaccine manufacturers that exceed those of Josef Mengele, and that all involved must face justice.

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Henry Longstop
12 hours ago

Politicians seem to be herd animals who go out of their way to 'belong', and will resist acting outside of the pack to avoid being attacked.
That might explain why no Government had the courage to act against the consensus when it came to bowing to the vaccine machine. They all dutifully fell in line and paid up (with our money).

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GarySummers
18 hours ago

"EXCLUSIVE" 'Sharing Is Caring'

"BOMBSHELL: New-Found Emails Prove Biden White House Hid COVID Vaccine Harms from the Public"
"You can't kill Americans … knowingly without the okay of the President because you're literally burning up too much political capital."

As a former political advisor, Dr. Wolf said, from experience working around a White House, "You can't kill Americans … knowingly without the okay of the President because you're literally burning up too much political capital. No one wants to be on the receiving end of having killed Americans when that crime comes to light without the imprimatur (approval) of the President."
https://vigilantnews.com/po...

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